

Paxlovid Treatment Guidance

Ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir (Paxlovid) is available as a safe and effective oral treatment for people with COVID-19 to prevent severe disease.

Indications for treatment

1. Positive test for COVID-19 (rapid antigen test or nucleic acid amplification test)
2. Any symptomatic infection that does not require hospitalization
3. Within five days of symptom onset
4. ≥ 12 years old and weigh ≥ 40 kg
5. Any risk factor

Dosing

The standard dose of boosted nirmatrelvir is 300 mg of nirmatrelvir with 100 mg of ritonavir, taken twice a day for five days, dispensed as a single course in a blister pack.

The dose should be reduced to nirmatrelvir 150 mg with ritonavir 100 mg twice daily in patients with moderate renal impairment (i.e., estimated glomerular filtration rate [eGFR] of ≥ 30 to < 60 mL/min). Ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir is not recommended in patients with an eGFR of < 30 mL/min or for patients with severe hepatic impairment (i.e., Child-Pugh Class C).

Adverse effects

The most common adverse effects of ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir are dysgeusia, diarrhea, hypertension, and myalgia.

Drug-drug interactions

Ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir has significant drug-drug interactions with some medications, primarily due to the ritonavir component. Before prescribing ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir, clinicians should carefully review the patient's concomitant medications, including over-the-counter medicines, herbal supplements, and recreational drugs.

Common concomitant medications that interact with ritonavir-booster nirmatrelvir

Temporarily withhold, if clinically appropriate	Alternative COVID-19 therapy recommended	Adjust dose and monitor
Chemotherapy Clonazepam Colchicine HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (statins) Rivaroxiban Salmeterol Tacrolimus	Amiodarone Carbamazepine Clopidogrel Clozapine Phenytoin Rifampin St. John's Wort	Amlodipine Apixiban Cyclosporine Digoxin Oxycodone Tamsulosin Trazadone

This table is not a comprehensive list of all the drugs that may interact with ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir. This table focuses on common concomitant medications that may be prescribed in the outpatient setting. Clinicians should refer to resources such as the [Liverpool COVID-19 Drug Interactions website](#), and the [EUA fact sheet](#) for ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir for additional guidance regarding potential drug-drug interactions.

Risk factors for severe COVID-19*

Age ≥ 65 years old
Cancer
Chronic lung disease
Chronic liver disease
Chronic kidney disease
Diabetes
Disabilities
Heart disease
Immunocompromise
Neurologic conditions
Overweight/obesity
Physical inactivity
Pregnancy
Smoking (history of)
Stroke
Substance use disorders

*For details, see:
mass.gov/MedicalConditionsVaccine

